

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 2-13, 15-18, 20-36 and 38-48 are currently pending in the instant application. Claims 2, 18, 21, 24, 29-32, 34, 45 and 48 have been amended. Claims 2, 5, 18, 21, 29, 38 and 48 are independent. Reconsideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 5-8, 15, and 38-47 have been allowed. In addition, claims 16, 17, 22-27 and 29-36 would be allowed if rewritten in independent format. Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the present application, claim 29 has been rewritten in independent format. Accordingly, claims 5-8, 15, 29-36 and 38-47 should be allowed. As described in greater detail hereinafter, Applicants submit that the remaining claims of the present application should be withdrawn and the present application should be passed to Issue.

Drawings

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of acceptance of the Drawing Change Approval Request submitted on April 14, 2003. Two sheets of formal drawings incorporating the changes approved by the Examiner have been included as attachments to this Amendment.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 48 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kawada (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0148556). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Specifically, Kawada fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the unique combination of limitations of the claimed invention of claim 48. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

For example, Applicants submit that the Kawada reference fails to teach or suggest the features of "a the dry sheet media containing the encapsulated adhesive; a feeder for the dry sheet media; and an activation device for releasing the encapsulated adhesive as the dry sheet media is moved past the

device by the feeder, *wherein the encapsulated adhesive is an in situ microencapsulated adhesive and the activation device includes at least one activator blade.*" (emphasis added) Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4, 9-13, 18, 20, 21, 28 and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herbert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,008,133). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Specifically, claims have been amended to more clearly clarify the systems of the claimed invention. As suggested by the Examiner with respect to the claim interpretation of claims 2, 21 and 48, Applicants have amended the term dry sheet media to "a dry sheet media containing the encapsulated adhesive" within the body of each of these claims. Accordingly, as admitted by the Examiner with respect to the Herbert et al. reference, Herbert et al. clearly does not teach or suggest any dry sheet media containing an encapsulated adhesive. Accordingly, all of the rejections based upon the Herbert et al.

reference should be withdrawn and the present application should be passed to Issue.

For example, with respect to claim 2, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the combination of limitations of the claimed invention, including the features of “the dry sheet media containing the encapsulated adhesive.”

With respect to claim 18, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the combination of limitations of the claimed invention, including the features of “A system for rupturing an encapsulated adhesive contained in a dry sheet media, comprising *means for feeding the dry sheet media containing the encapsulated adhesive*; and *means for activating and for releasing the encapsulated adhesive as the sheet media is moved past the device by said feeding means*, wherein said activating means is an activator blade past which the feeder said feeding means moves the sheet media along a travel path, the activator blade being fixed in position relative to the path of the sheet media, wherein said activating means further includes at least one crushing roller for rupturing and thereby releasing the encapsulated media.” (emphasis added) Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn. In addition, claims 3, 4, 9-13, 16 and 17 should also be allowed and the present application should be passed to Issue.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has not accorded any patentable weight to any of the alleged functional language of previously presented claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants have amended this claim to include means plus function limitations with respect to the means for feeding and the means for activating. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn. In addition, claims 24-28 should also be allowed and the present application should be passed to Issue.

With respect to claim 21, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the combination of limitations of the claimed invention, including the features of "the dry sheet media containing the encapsulated adhesive." Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn. In addition, claims 22-23 should also be allowed and the present application should be passed to Issue.

The Herbert et al. reference is directed to a method of applying/forming a coating on a web. However, the coating mixture, e.g., a wet slurry, is applied in a process of applying a wet slurry to a web, e.g., a wet coating pan (element 20 in FIG. 1) is provided for continuously applying the wet coating to the web with a roller¹⁸. As acknowledged by the Examiner, this is clearly not a dry sheet media as would be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn.

In accordance with the above discussion of the patents relied upon by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully submit that these documents, either in combination together or standing alone, fail to teach or suggest the invention as is set forth by the claims of the instant application.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejection are respectfully requested. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state-of-the-art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew T. Shanley, Registration No. 47,074 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

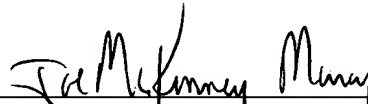
Applicants respectfully petition under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and § 1.17 for a two-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of **\$420.00** is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


Joe McKinney Muncy
Reg. No. 32,334

KM/MTS/cl

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000